



## KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION State Advisory Council for Exceptional Children SUMMARY

September 5-6, 2019

Thursday, September 5, 2019

### 10:00 a.m. CT: General Business Session I

- I. Call to order at 10:00 am by Leisa Hutchinson, Chair
- II. Introduction/ Roll Call of Members

### **Members Present**

Gretta Hylton  
Amy Folker  
Joe McCowan  
Brandi Hitzelberger  
Leisa Hutchinson  
Libby Suttles  
Eric Umstead  
Christopher Johnson  
Danny Hughes  
Ravonne Simms  
Anita Dowd  
Anna Light

### **Present**

Veronica Sullivan, Chris Thacker, April Pieper

Julie Rubemeyer taken role as principal in elementary school. No longer can serve as secretary but will continue to serve on council. Any interest in serving in this role please contact Leisa.

### III. Discussion of New Officer Roles

#### IV. Approval Of minutes

Eric Umstead first motion to approve

Amy Folker second motion to approve

Minutes approved

10:30 am CT

VI Kentucky Education Transition Overview,: April Pieper, Manager, Guidance and Support Branch, Division IDEA Implementation and Preschool, Office of Special Education and Early Learning

[april.pieper@education.ky.gov](mailto:april.pieper@education.ky.gov)

502-564-4970 ext 4517

#### Updates

Resources for transitions on Kentucky Works page

Overview for parents and written in parent friendly language

Resources for educators also on website

NTACT state plan and

Employment first website: [www.employmentfirstky.org](http://www.employmentfirstky.org)

Employment first committee making sure students are gainfully employed and have opportunities.

Kentucky Works. Partners with employment systems change grant. Creating resources and training around employment for people with disabilities. [Www. kentuckyworks.org](http://www.kentuckyworks.org) Career work transition program OVR has served 97 schools and over 300 people.

New accountability system set up for Kentucky. Exceptional work experience. Set up to help students get work hours. New graduation requirements went over and discussed that changes are being discussed. Exceptions can be made in IEP/ARC meeting for individuals. This gives more opportunities to different areas of kids. Also opens more opportunities for Post-secondary skills. New graduation requirements begin this year with freshman class. More requirements added in following years. A copy of this will be available. ILP vs IEP ILP is written by student and based on what they like and need. Feedback given on giving more support for foster care system, Communication and sharing more info on voc rehab and resources to parents, making systems easier for teachers and sending out a positive messages on what is happening. Showing progress/success at every level even that 1%. Showing different options for jobs available.

#### **\*\*\*Revote Needed on Minutes**

Eric Umstead first motion

Christopher Johnson second motion

Motion approved.

11:30 CT: Lunch

1:00 CT:

VI: Transitions In Kentucky: Jeff White cabinet for health and family services.  
Developing Lost productivity

Looking at students with most significant disabilities. Governor employment first order. Why is transition important in Kentucky? People who are employed are happier, healthier and less lonely. Workforce for people with disabilities is  $\frac{1}{3}$  of people without. We know that working adults with disabilities live below the poverty line at twice the rate of the general population. There has been an increase in 3,000 students served. There is a decrease in people that are choosing not to work. More levels of disabilities are being employed. Kentucky employment first council. Who is employable? A worthy investment, develop a seamless transition model for Kentucky, coordinating the various resources available to focus on youth with disabilities. A smooth transition from school to work. Every agency that receives state funding must consider and interview someone with disability. Resource: create a link between school and workforce development system to ensure that students with disabilities are receiving training to meet the job tasks. Confidence encourage school systems to employ former students and show that we can give them opportunity and others should too. A perception of people with disabilities or of individuals themselves have is they can't work b/c of disability. To move forward we need to use Pre-ETS services as early as middle school and build confidence and create dreams of an exciting future. These dreams could be then realized by using the data collected through these pre-vocational experiences to develop an effective person-centered employment (PCEP). In turn, an appropriate job can be developed in the community meeting goals defined in the PCEP and the student can seamlessly transition to employment when they are ready. Getting Family engaged in school, community and the person confidence. This helps them feel like they can succeed. Parent involvement is key and getting them the resources they need is important. Use the resource page on KDE OVR and Kentucky Works. Students need a vision statement so we can see what is important for them. Training sessions are provided for parents on website. University of Missouri KC resource booklet is the best resource available. Parents say they feel uninvolved in child's transition process or feel like they don't add value. Parents having confidence in process helps add value. Educator resources seamless transition pilot being done in Franklin Simpson co. Transition 101, 102, 103 available for teachers and continuing education credit is available. They encourage all staff to use resources and do the training, it is free.

Employer engagement how do we get employers to understand the importance of incorporating disability into their workplace. Employing people with disabilities has been shown to show a benefit for business and give access to a wider pool of people. Materials for employers available on website to help show how to implement workers into workplace. Turnover rate for people with disabilities is 8% compared with 45%, 87%. Studies also show people would prefer to shop at places who employ people with disabilities. Customers and people with disabilities is 3 trillion industry. Examples from business were given and these are available on the website to share with employers. Tax benefits to employ business with disabilities. Work opportunity tax credit and deductions on taxes.

Giving students the knowledge of job and opportunities. Giving them experience and work experience in different areas. Work Ready Kentucky initiative. Getting people to go and talk to businesses to get them involved and on board for hiring people with disabilities. Training is needed, modeling/mentoring to help teachers and others gain knowledge on how to employ students.

#### Post-secondary Education

All training is available to students with disabilities. . Making sure the student understands their disability and the accommodations they need to be successful. Murray and Northern Kentucky have non-traditional programs for students with disabilities. Western Kentucky is also on the verge of starting program. 2 year programs that lead to program credentials. Financial assistance is available.

Making jobs available in all communities is key to success

#### Work incentives programs and counselors

Benefits 101 how to work and what happens with benefits when you do. SSI 101 gives basics need to know about applying for SSI when they turn 18. Also covers how youth with disabilities can work and keep benefits.

Print outs are available online and can be used in schools for resource. DB101 is a tool you can use on health coverage, benefits and employment.

We must protect our investment. Long term employment services are needed to help with first 2 years fo employment. Also increase the number of work incentive counselors available.

#### **2:30 Break**

#### **2:40 pm CT**

VII Review of Annual summary Draft. Review Draft to discuss for November meeting. Think of anything that needs to be added or discussed for final reading in January.

#### Discussed Recommendations for Transitions

Christopher Johnson recommends getting training more work incentive counselors

Eric Umstead talked about support and funding for additional services.

Joe McCowan talked about how it's hard for one person to have that knowledge. Is there one person in school district that has this knowledge? No transition person on staff right now at KDE and it is a hard to fill position.

Eric Umstead talks about grants that might be available.

How do we get the word out to parents to get them informed and more involved?

Leisa Hutchinson talked about if parent advisory councils are still set up in districts?

KDE is working on webcast to share information better to improve communication. Identifying the right areas to communicate is an area of importance.

Where is the breakdown happening?

Leisa Hutchison will work on recommendations for transitions and bring to meeting tomorrow morning.

November Meeting held at Galt House on Nov. 25-26. Attendance for general session is an option. Priority setting to set focus for year. Member presentations. Talk about having UK Deaf/Bling project coming to present and possibly Helen Keller institute to discuss Haptics.

Review of Tomorrow, KDE update, Commissioner Lewis and Cooperative update.

VII. Recess

### **Open Forum 6:00 pm CT**

A parent brought concern about corporal punishment in school system.

### **Friday, September 6, 2019**

### **8:30 am CT Business Session II**

IX. Call to order, Leisa Hutchinson, Chair

X. Roll call of member done by introductions

Anitta Dowd

Ravonne Simms

Christopher Johnson

Anna Light

Eric Ulmstead

Libby Suttles

Brandi Hltzelberger

Leisa Hutchinson

Amy Folker

Gretta Hylton

Danny Hughes

**Present:** Joe McCowan, Commissioner Lewis, Veronica Sullivan, Chris

Response to Transition presentation yesterday and recommendations discussed. Leisa Hutchinson will send email out.

Corporal punishment discussion from forum discussion. Want to gather info and work on letter to schools. Get info on schools still using and being used on students with special needs.

Some issue is those not being reported. Chris Johnson and Brandi Hitzelberger will work to gather information to bring to next meeting

#### XI. Opening Statement and Q&A with Commissioner, Dr. Lewis

Three big changes to KDE.

We are failing to meet student needs, a lot of this is choices we make as adults. Placing our least experienced with most vulnerable students. Teacher prep and mentoring is a big need. Parents, community and students disability are out of our control but many areas are not. GOTEACHKY campaign to help address shortage. Promote the positives. Restructure the teacher system. School Accountability system restructured to a 5 star system.

Break

#### XII Gretta Hylton KDE Update Associate Commissioner Office of Special Education and Early Learning

Child Count Presented

Majority of students have speech IEP for schools that complain about "those" students must realize that the issue is with the adults.

Director of Spec. Ed. Institute was held first and hopefully annual one. Over 250 attended.

Training and informational sessions provided. Talked about celebrations and challenges.

Discussed different sessions provided. Project LINK and LINK2K. New positive behavior intervention and support mentoring. Alternative Assessment training results, guidance.

Corrective Action Plans.

Mission of OSEEL is to improve educational outcomes for diverse students and early learners through effective support, technical assistance, training/coaching and guidance.

Goals and priorities: improve instruction and discipline. Enhance communication and dissemination of information and guidance. Bridge supports from preschool to kindergarten.

Fostering parent and family engagement. Preparing, recruiting, and retaining high quality staff.

How will we improve Instruction and discipline practices

Project with UL that establishes KY-ABR project. Three tiered project.

State systemic improvement plan

State Personnel Development Plan

Focused Due process monitoring.

How do we get better in communication?

DOSE institute

Webcasts

Quarterly webinars

Beginning of the year regional trainings

Sharing information

Increased communication with advisory groups/ partners

Identified staff dedicated to communications.

Building a bridge from Preschool to Kindergarten

Improved application process that aligns with applications that districts are submitted in GMAP

Fostering Parent and Family Engagement

Parent Liaison

Dedicated staff

Parent training and information center

Preparing and recruiting Staff

Partnering with Northern Kentucky University and UK

Upcoming event and conferences

XIII. Cooperative Update Patty Grable, West KY Educational Cooperative

Kick off meeting held Gretta spoke. Team building done.

Regional Training John O'Connor/ Increasing the Achievement of students with disabilities.

Aug. 26, Sept 10, Sept 11, Sept 25 and Sept 30.

GREAT instruction: Guided by performance standards

Rigorous with research-based practice

Engaging and exciting

Assessed continuously to guide instruction

Cooperative Task Groups

Math training

Literacy/ Behavior Mental health

AT support

Memorandum of Agreement with OVR

Each coop has pre-employment staff

Murray state program video shown

\*She talked pretty fast so I missed several slides.

Transition fairs. David DeSanctus spoke as motivational speaker

Weekly workshops done in schools

Transition training Module Take Flight Annette Jett

Program cost coop

Peer support Networks support with training and coaching school teams

Trained two schools and have three more scheduled. More have expressed interest.

#### XIV. Adjournment

**Next meeting in Louisville at The Galt House in conjunction with CEC conference Nov 24-26, 2019**

DRAFT